

TELLINA OBLIQUA J. SOWERBY, 1817 (BIVALVIA): PROPOSED  
CONSERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1849

By Eugene V. Coan (*Dept. Biol. Sci., Stanford University, Stanford, California, U.S.A. 94305*) and D. L. F. Sealy (*Dept. of Palaeontology, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7, England*)

This petition requests that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature use its plenary powers to conserve the name of a well-known European Caenozoic fossil bivalve which has recently been discovered to be a junior primary homonym.

2. The name *Tellina obliqua* James Sowerby, 1817, was published in *Mineral Conchology* 2 (28) : 137-138, pl. 161, figs. 1 on 1 April 1817 (Dating: Sykes (1906), *Proc. malac. Soc. Lond.* 7 (3) : 192). Sowerby's name is a junior primary homonym of *Tellina obliqua* William Wood, 1815, published in *General Conchology* 1 : 152 (no. 17), pl. 41, figs. 4, 5 in 1815 or before (Dating: Iredale (1922), *Proc. malac. Soc. Lond.* 15 (2/3) : 91). The former is a common and well-known fossil *Macoma* found in Pliocene and Pleistocene of western Europe, while the latter is a *Semele*, most probably a synonym of *Semele purpurascens* (Gmelin, 1791), described as *Venus purpurascens* Gmelin, 1791, *Syst. Nat. (ed. 13)* 1 (VI) : 3288 (no. 91) (Dating: Hopkinson (1908), *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond. for 1907* (4) : 1035-1037) and has never been brought into common use.

3. The International Commission is therefore requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *obliqua* Wood, 1815, as published in the binomen *Tellina obliqua*, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the specific name *obliqua* Sowerby, 1817, as published in the binomen *Tellina obliqua*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.